

# SENATE BILL 986

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SB 857/09 – EHE

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CF HB 39

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By: **Senators Pugh, Forehand, Harrington, Jones, King, Lenett, Madaleno, Raskin, and Rosapepe**  
Introduced and read first time: February 22, 2010  
Assigned to: Rules

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Education – Public High Schools and Public High School Students – Data**  
3 **Collection System**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the State Department of Education to develop a certain  
5 data collection system on or before a certain date; identifying the purpose of a  
6 certain provision of law; and generally relating to public high schools and public  
7 high school students.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
9 Article – Education  
10 Section 7–203.2  
11 Annotated Code of Maryland  
12 (2008 Replacement Volume and 2009 Supplement)  
13 (As enacted by Chapter 558 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2006)

14 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
15 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

16 **Article – Education**

17 7–203.2.

18 (a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

19 (2) (i) “Four–year cohort” means a group of students who enter  
20 ninth grade together.

21 (ii) “Four–year cohort” also includes a student who:

22 1. Transfers into the group:

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.  
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 A. During the ninth grade of the group's first year in  
2 high school;

3 B. During the tenth grade of the group's second year in  
4 high school;

5 C. During the eleventh grade of the group's third year in  
6 high school; or

7 D. During the twelfth grade of the group's fourth year in  
8 high school;

9 2. Is retained in grade; or

10 3. Is enrolled in a GED program.

11 (iii) "Four-year cohort" does not include a student who:

12 1. Dies before graduation;

13 2. Transfers out of the group; or

14 3. The county board confirms has permanently left the  
15 United States.

16 (iv) Students retained in grade are only counted once as  
17 members of their original cohort.

18 (3) "Graduation rate" means the percentage obtained from applying  
19 the graduation rate formula.

20 (4) (i) "Graduation rate formula" means the number of students  
21 who graduate on time with a Maryland high school diploma divided by the number of  
22 students in the four-year cohort.

23 (ii) "Graduation rate formula" does not include students who  
24 graduate on time with a GED or other certificate not aligned with State standards.

25 (5) (i) "On time" means on or before the conclusion of a four-year  
26 cohort's fourth year of high school.

27 (ii) "On time" includes a senior summer session in a jurisdiction  
28 that offers senior summer sessions.

29 (6) (i) "Transfer out" means a student who the county board  
30 confirms, via written documentation, has enrolled in another high school or other

1 educational program from which that student is expected to receive a Maryland high  
2 school diploma.

3 (ii) "Transfer out" does not include a student enrolled in:

4 1. A GED program; or

5 2. An alternative education program that does not issue  
6 or provide credits toward a Maryland high school diploma.

7 (b) The purpose of this section is to:

8 (1) Initiate a process by which the State may achieve the goal of  
9 collecting, maintaining, analyzing, and publicly reporting data relating to the  
10 graduation rates of students in public high schools as an essential step in addressing  
11 gaps in educational achievement among a diverse student population; [and]

12 (2) Explicitly delineate the duties and responsibilities of the  
13 Department and the county boards in this regard; AND

14 **(3) PROVIDE THE BASIS FOR MAKING SOUND EDUCATIONAL**  
15 **DECISIONS AFFECTING HIGH SCHOOL REFORM IN THE STATE WHILE**  
16 **RECOGNIZING THAT SOME STUDENTS WILL COMPLETE HIGH SCHOOL**  
17 **REQUIREMENTS IN 3 YEARS, SOME IN 4 YEARS, AND SOME IN 5 YEARS.**

18 (c) (1) Beginning on or before September 1, 2011, and each year  
19 thereafter, a county board shall:

20 (i) Collect, maintain, and analyze graduation rates for public  
21 schools, local school systems, and the State; and

22 (ii) Report the information required under item (i) of this  
23 paragraph to:

24 1. The public in the aggregate and disaggregated by  
25 American Indian, African American, Hispanic, White, Asian/Pacific Islander, students  
26 who are limited English proficient, students who receive free and reduced priced  
27 meals, and students who receive special education services; and

28 2. The Department.

29 (2) Beginning on or before October 1, 2011, and each year thereafter,  
30 the Department shall:

31 (i) Compile the information received under paragraph (1) of  
32 this subsection and calculate a graduation rate for the State; and

1 (ii) Post the information obtained under this subsection for each  
2 county on its website in the aggregate and disaggregated by American Indian, African  
3 American, Hispanic, White, Asian/Pacific Islander, students who are limited English  
4 proficient, students who receive free and reduced priced meals, and students who  
5 receive special education services.

6 (D) BEGINNING ON OR BEFORE JULY 1, 2012, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL  
7 DEVELOP A DATA COLLECTION SYSTEM TO COLLECT DATA REGARDING  
8 STUDENTS WHO GRADUATE FROM HIGH SCHOOL IN 3 YEARS, 4 YEARS, OR 5  
9 YEARS.

10 [(d)] (E) (1) The county boards and the Department may develop and  
11 implement additional indicators to collect, maintain, analyze, and publicly report data  
12 regarding alternative high school completions.

13 (2) The Department shall ensure that the information collected under  
14 paragraph (1) of this subsection is comparable for public schools and local school  
15 systems in the State.

16 [(e)] (F) The Department shall:

17 (1) Implement training for administrators and other personnel  
18 responsible for collecting, maintaining, analyzing, and publicly reporting data  
19 regarding four-year cohorts and graduation rates;

20 (2) Implement a standard process for verifying the accuracy of data  
21 including:

22 (i) Statistical checks and analyses; and

23 (ii) On-site audits of record-keeping procedures;

24 (3) Implement a public awareness campaign including outreach to  
25 civic associations, community-based groups, and parent organizations and the  
26 solicitation of suggestions and community support regarding the need for collecting,  
27 maintaining, analyzing, and publicly reporting accurate data regarding four-year  
28 cohorts and graduation rates;

29 (4) Provide technical support to the county boards with collecting,  
30 maintaining, analyzing, and publicly reporting graduation rate data; and

31 (5) Serve as a central repository for this data.

32 [(f)] (G) (1) On or before November 1 of each year, the State Board shall  
33 report to the Governor and, subject to § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, to the  
34 General Assembly, regarding:

- 1                   (i)     The implementation of this section;
- 2                   (ii)    Statistical analyses and data verification processes
- 3 developed under this section; and
- 4                   (iii)  Discrepancies discovered while collecting, maintaining,
- 5 analyzing, and publicly reporting the information required under this section.
- 6                   (2)     The report required under this subsection shall be posted on the
- 7 Department's website.

8                   SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect

9                   October 1, 2010.